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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in IRELAND,

For the Year ending 25th March 1834.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY RICHARD MARQUIS WELLESLEY,

Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter,

Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland,

&c. &c. &c. &c.

WE, the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, constituted by an Act of Parliament made in the fifty-third year of the reign of His late Majesty King George the Third, and in obedience thereto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a general Report of the proceedings of the Board since the period of their last Report.

Schools of Royal Foundation.

In respect of the Schools of Royal Foundation, we beg leave to state to your Excellency, that, in consequence of an increase in the funds of some of these Schools, the Board is enabled to provide thirty additional annual exhibitions to Students of merit in the University of Dublin (under the appellation of King's Scholars), who shall have been educated at the Royal Schools of Armagh, Dungannon, and Enniskillen respectively; but the funds of the other Royal Schools are not as yet sufficient to permit of the grant of exhibitions to persons educated in them.

The estates of most of the Royal Schools have received very considerable improvement since our last Report, particularly those of Armagh and Dungannon, which have but lately come under our immediate management, by the expiration of leases formerly made before this Board was formed, and held in trust for the benefit of the Masters of the Schools. It has been found necessary, for the further improvement of the lands and condition of the tenantry, to permit a portion of the surplus rents of some of the estates to be expended in useful local works, such as the making of roads, draining of bogs, enclosing of farms, (enclosures being made necessary to a great extent in consequence of the irregularity and confusion of the original holdings, the same person in many instances being the occupier of detached fields considerably distant from each other,) and also in affording other assistance to some of the poorer tenants, to the benefit and improvement of their farms; and we have the satisfaction to state, from the reports of the very intelligent land agents of these estates, that there is every reason to expect that they are likely to be essentially benefited by the present system of management, and that the tenants thereof will, at no distant period, be much improved in their condition and habits.

CAVAN.

In respect of the Royal School of Cavan, to which a master has been lately appointed by your Excellency, on the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Moore, we beg leave to inform your Excellency, that the Board has for the present allocated a salary of £200 per annum for the master, and an annual sum of of £100 for his assistant. The Board has directed that the sum of £2,486 13*s.* 7*d.*, which had been advanced from the funds of Enniskillen School towards repayment of a loan granted from the consolidated fund for the building of Cavan School House, shall be replaced out of the residue of the income of Cavan School before any further charge shall be made on its funds,

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and that the repayment be made by instalments at the rate of £4 per centum per annum.

BANAGHER. We have to report to your Excellency that a Salary of £200 per annum has been conditionally allocated for the master of Banagher School out of the surplus rents of the estates belonging to the Royal Schools of Armagh, Dungannon, and Enniskillen, pursuant to the power vested in the Board of applying the residue of the funds of any of the Royal Schools in support of any one or more of them that may stand in need of such aid, the funds belonging to this School being barely sufficient to meet the payment of the rent of the School House and the expence of its ordinary repairs, on the terms, that the Master, who has been tenant of the school lands for some years, shall surrender all his interest in the lands, to enable the Board to place them under the superintendence of a local and qualified agent.

RAPHOE. Respecting the Royal School of Raphoe we have to state, that there has been paid into the Bank of Ireland since our last Report, to the credit of the Teller of His Majesty's Exchequer, a sum of £77 0*s.* 7*d.*, being the fourth instalment of the loan advanced under the provisions of the statutes for the improvement of the School House at Raphoe.

DUNGANNON. We have also to state to your Excellency, that since our Report of last year a sum of £629 14*s.* 5*d.* has been paid out of the funds of Dungannon School to the representative of the late master thereof, Dr. Lancelot Dowdall, the same being a legal and statutable charge created in his favour for buildings and improvements made by him on the school lands before this Board was constituted, and which charge the Commissioners of Education were bound to pay, as standing in the place of the next successor of said master.

Schools of Private Foundation. NAVAN and BALLYROAN. We have to report to your Excellency, that the estates belonging to the Schools of Navan and Ballyroan have at last come under the controul and management of this Board, and that a local agent of high character and experience has been appointed over them, the receiver in the long depending cause in Chancery instituted respecting the Estates belonging to these Schools having been discharged, and his accounts passed, since our last Report. The lands will require very particular attention, they being occupied by very numerous and poor persons, who obtained possession under the immediate tenants of the Court. And we have to report to your Excellency in respect of the claims of the Blue Coat Hospital on the Funds derived from these estates, that, as the offer of the Board to refer such claims to arbitration has at length been accepted by the Governors of the Hospital, and a deed of submission has been executed in the terms offered by the law agents of this Board, there is every reason to expect that the sum due to the Hospital will be ascertained and defrayed within a very short period, and that the Commissioners of Education will shortly afterwards be enabled, by means of the residue of the funds in bank, to make considerable improvements in respect of the School at Ballyroan, and otherwise to provide for the due administration of these Charities.

CLONMEL. We have further to report to your Excellency, that another instalment amounting to £240 has been paid into the Bank of Ireland to the credit of the Teller of His Majesty's Exchequer, towards repayment of the loan advanced from the consolidated fund for the building of Clonmel School House.

Diocesan and District Schools. Lastly, in adverting to the proceedings of the Board in respect of the Diocesan and District Schools, we regret being obliged to report to your Excellency, whose wish to extend throughout Ireland, by means of these Schools, the benefit of Classical Education, was so strongly evinced in the year 1823, when the sites of these Schools were fixed in such Dioceses and Districts as appeared, with due regard to the local situation of other Classical Schools of public or private Foundation, to be most in need of such Establishments, that of the eighteen Dioceses or Districts in which Schools ought to be kept, eight only are provided with effective Schools; and in order to shew to your Excellency that it has not been in the power of this Board to make any greater progress towards their general establishment, and the circumstances which have retarded our progress, we most respectfully beg leave to refer your Excellency to our Report made to the Marquis of Anglesey in the year 1831; and we would beg leave to particularly refer your Excellency to that part of our said Report which adverts to the difficulties which this Board has had to contend with in its endeavours to establish in Limerick a School for the District composed of the Dioceses of Limerick, Killaloe, and Kilfenora, difficulties which still continue to

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LIMERICK, KILLALOE, and KILFENORA.

to exist, notwithstanding the best efforts of the Board to procure a due application of the money which was presented by the Grand Jury of the County of Limerick for this School, and which has been permitted by the Grand Jury of that County to be retained in the hands of the Treasurer of that County for some years, interest free, although a good and sufficient site whereon to build the School, according to the plan approved by one Grand Jury of the County, has been long since purchased by this Board with funds provided by the Grand Juries of the City of Limerick. We have only now to add, that the Grand Jury of the County of Limerick have at the last Assizes, as we have been informed by their Secretary, re-appointed a Committee to communicate with the Bishop of the Diocese, in connection with a Committee appointed by the City Grand Jury, "to see what steps may be taken to carry this object into effect;" but judging from the past, and the results of their appointment at former Assizes of Committees nearly similar, we cannot but apprehend that the establishment of this School will be again postponed, unless the Board shall be enabled, by the means suggested in the Report to which we have alluded, namely, by an enactment being made to oblige the County Treasurers to lodge in the Bank of Ireland, to the credit of the Commissioners or of the persons to whom the money is presented to be paid, all such sums of money as have been or shall be levied by virtue of such presentments; or otherwise to procure from the County Treasurer the payment of the money now so long in his hands, or at least its lodgment under the power of some authority which can render it productive until a contract for building a proper School House can be made. And we would also beg leave to add, that unless the Commissioners of Education shall be empowered to raise money for the building of School Houses in such Dioceses or Districts as are at present unprovided with any, in the manner proposed in the same Report, viz. by loan to be made from the consolidated fund, or from such funds as may be appropriated by Parliament to be lent out for the encouragement of Education or the improvement of Ireland, or such other public funds as may be applicable to the purpose, such loans when made to be repaid by annual instalments at five per cent., or by such instalments as the Government may think proper, the instalments to be made a charge on the salary of the masters and their successors until the amount of such loan shall be repaid to Government or in some other manner,—we see no prospect of being able to proceed further in their establishment, as Grand Juries are unwilling to make presentments for the purpose. And with reference to the Diocesan School of Tuam, we more particularly regret that such power does not at present exist, as the Board has been assured by his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam,—who informs us that your Excellency has been pleased to attend to his recommendation of a master to that School in the room of the Reverend George Irwin, lately deceased,—that if the small sum of £600 could be procured in addition to the sum of £400, which is in the hands of this Board, for the building of the School House, there would be no doubt of the establishment of a very flourishing School in the populous town of Tuam; but that the acceptance of the mastership by the gentleman whom his Grace proposes to recommend to your Excellency, and of whose qualifications his Grace speaks very highly, entirely depends on his procuring a suitable house, there being none to be had in the town of Tuam that would answer the purpose of a School; and it is proper to apprize your Excellency, that his Grace the Archbishop has granted a portion of his see lands for the site of the School House.

TUAM.

Finally, we most respectfully beg leave to call your Excellency's attention to the remedies proposed in our Reports for the years 1831 and 1832, by a further amendment of the Act under which this Board was constituted, and to inform your Excellency that a draft of a Bill which was intended to provide for such matters as appeared most urgent was submitted to the consideration of the then Chief Secretary of State for Ireland; but that as the Board has not been informed of the intentions of His Majesty's Government in respect of the amendments then proposed, we would beg leave to bring them under your Excellency's consideration, and to submit the propriety of another Bill being prepared to provide for the several matters to which we have taken the liberty of directing your Excellency's attention. All which is respectfully submitted to your Excellency.

Dublin, 16th May 1834.

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COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in IRELAND,

For the Year ending 25th March 1834.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
21 *July* 1834.

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